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# SERVICE NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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The NEWS is intended to inform staff members of developments within the Service and is not for distribution to others.

Benton, Miss Mildred

June 1, 1940

## YOUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT SAYS --

To Hugh Bennett, Chief of the Service, we turn over the role of Washington Correspondent this week. Here is Mr. Bennett with a vital message:

Something of the greatest importance and significance to every one of you took place in Washington last week. I want you to know about it -- I'd like to tell every American in this land about it if I could. Because in these dark days, there is hope and encouragement for all Americans in what happened here.

From all the nations of the western hemisphere, leaders of thought and action met here to discuss their common problems at the Eighth American Scientific Congress. Among them were lawyers and doctors, chemists, mathematicians, physicists, agriculturists, biologists, anthropologists, sociologists, economists -- the whole gamut of the social and physical sciences was represented. They were leaders in their own lands -- men whose intellectual pursuits, translated into public action, mold and shape the government and culture of the nations from which they came.

They met in friendliness and peace, in mutual understanding, with a decent regard for the other man's point of view, to help each other.

They met in the cause of civilization, to advance the knowledge and the culture of the Americas, so that the people of this hemisphere -- you and I and millions of other Americans -- might have a better world to live in, a better way of life.



Every day, these peaceful men read the headlines and heard the radio reports from Europe -- reports of bloodshed and courage; of chaos and horror; of the destruction men are wreaking with instruments science has designed.

They turned from these reports to the business of the day with mingled feelings -- a feeling of sadness that the ingenuity of the scientist has been turned to the destruction of his fellow man; a feeling of great thankfulness that here, in this hemisphere, there still is peace and communion among men and the nations they constitute; and a feeling of determination to stand together, if need be, to defend the enlightened peace of the Americas.

I can't begin to tell you about the spirit that pervaded the meetings of these men. In other years, I have attended other Pan American Congresses and conferences. None of them was like this one. There was a deeper unity in the meeting last week than has ever been apparent to me before. I had the feeling that the shocking spectacle of conflict and conquest in Europe has brought the Americas closer together than they have ever been and that the ideal of inter-American solidarity and friendship has been realized.

I talked with many of the delegates from nations to the south of us. Naturally, we talked of war, as everyone does these days. And always, I found them alert to the necessity of welding the nations of this hemisphere, through mutual understanding and good-will, into a solid front so formidable that an act of aggression against them would be folly.

Elsewhere in this issue, the New prints four of the resolutions adopted by the Scientific Congress. I hope you will read them carefully and interpret them in their full significance. They mean essentially, that the nations of the Americas, while alert to immediate alarms and necessities, are not blinded to the equal necessity of conserving the national strength and endurance that stems from the resources of the earth. To them, these resolutions indicate, defense of their land with the weapons of conservation is no less important than defense of their land with the weapons of war.

The delegates who adopted these resolutions realized fully that nations which fall before the onslaught of superior force can come back but nations that succumb through a drain of their fundamental strength are gone forever.

And to us, who understand conservation in its fullest sense -- who have devoted ourselves to the job of helping to conserve the strength of our

own great land, these resolutions have particularly vital meaning. In them we may take heart, find new incentives and a sense of contribution to the cause of peace and progress.

In these next few months, our courage may be sorely tried. Already, we have seen the death of nations that were friends to us, and as I write this, men who fight for a creed the same as ours are falling back. It is disheartening. Our spirits want to sag, and sometimes, when the news is very bad, there is an empty, helpless kind of feeling -- we are sick at heart.

But in the job we are doing there is something to bite into. We can feel that if this nation needs defending, we are helping out. We can feel that in return for the happy act of Providence that made us Americans, there is something we can do.

Hugh Bennett.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT EIGHTH  
AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

Following are the four resolutions of interest to the Soil Conservation Service adopted by the agriculture and conservation section of the Eighth American Scientific Congress recently held in Washington, D. C.

1.

WHEREAS:

Needless waste and destruction of necessary natural resources everywhere threatens or will threaten, sooner or later, the welfare and security of peoples;

Throughout human history the exhaustion of these resources and the need for a new supply have been among the greatest causes of war;

The welfare of every nation requires natural resources which it lacks, and fair access to such resources from other nations is an indispensable condition of national welfare and permanent peace;

Conservation of natural resources and fair access to needed raw materials are steps toward the common good to which all nations must in principle agree;

International cooperation to inventory, conserve and wisely utilize natural resources to the mutual advantage of all nations might well remove one of the most dangerous obstacles to all nations to a just and permanent world peace; and



An Inter-American Conservation Commission representing all the American nations would be of great and lasting value to the Americas, and through them, to all the nations of the world by advancing the knowledge of the natural resources of the earth, by promoting mutual access to necessary natural resources, and by bringing nearer the permanent removal of one of the greatest causes of war,

The Eighth American Scientific Congress

#### RESOLVES:

To recommend to the Governments of the American Republics the appointment of an Inter-American Conservation Commission cooperating with the Pan American Union and representing all the Americas.

That this Commission be charged with the duty of preparing an inventory of world natural resources, and of formulating a general policy and specific program of action to promote the mutual conservation and prudent utilization of natural resources for the welfare of all nations, in the interest of permanent peace.

#### 2.

#### WHEREAS:

The progressive advance of western civilization is a matter of vital and appropriate concern to the membership of the Eighth American Scientific Congress;

The permanent and continued prosperity of the American nations, essential to such a progressive advance, are directly dependent on the permanent productivity and continuing use of their soil resources; and

The Governments of the Republics of America should try to take all such measures as will contribute effectively to the prevention and correction of the serious damages that are caused by erosion, as the result of bad practices in the cutting and burning of trees, cultivation and overgrazing, etc.

The Eighth American Scientific Congress

#### RECOMMENDS:

1. The development of surveys by the several American nations in order to determine the extent and distribution of soil erosion in the Americas.

2. The inauguration of special soil conservation services in each American Republic, and appropriate research and studies by the several American nations to determine the most adaptable, practical, and economical measures for combating the depredations of soil erosion, and the exchange of soil experts between the various Republics.

3. The establishment, by the several American nations, of erosion control demonstration projects in representative problem areas, to show farmers how erosion can be controlled effectively by the use of practical soil and water conservation measures fitted to the land in accordance with the needs and adaptabilities of the various kinds of land.

4. That the Pan American Union appoint a committee composed of one representative of each of the American nations, for the purpose of:

- (a) Collecting all available information on soil erosion, and soil and water conservation;
- (b) Disseminating such information to interested individuals, organizations, and officers of the governments of the American nations;
- (c) Encouraging progress in the field of conservation education;
- (d) Sponsoring, in every feasible manner, constructive conservation work on the land;
- (e) Considering the proposal for the creation of an Inter-American Institute of Conservation, and considering the proposal of mapping the soils of this hemisphere; and
- (f) Reporting on soil and water conservation progress and a uniform method of surveys, research, demonstration and all related kinds of conservation work in the American nations at the next American Scientific Congress.

### 3.

#### WHEREAS:

Research and technical knowledge are essential for the successful development of tropical agriculture in the Western Hemisphere;

For such development of agriculture in the Tropics trained technical men are essential;



More adequate facilities than now exist for such research and training are indispensable;

Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, has shown in his excellent paper, "The Vital Role of Agriculture in Inter-American Relations", the urgent need for establishing an Inter-American Institute of Tropical Agriculture;

The research of such an institute would lead to a better balanced agricultural economy in the Western Hemisphere;

In bringing together students in tropical agriculture it would promote amity and mutual understanding between the future leaders in agriculture; and

Such an institute could aid in the establishment of new crops, the solution of serious production problems in both plant and animal industries, development of soil conservation practices, forestation programs, etc., and thus promote improved standards of living in the Western Hemisphere,

#### The Eighth American Scientific Congress

#### RESOLVES:

To endorse and undertake in all appropriate ways to encourage the establishment and development of an Inter-American Institute of Tropical Agriculture, both for research and the training of technical personnel.

To recommend to the Pan American Union that it appoint a committee of five representatives from the American Republics to study the proposal and make specific recommendations in regard to its establishment.

4.

#### WHEREAS:

The maximum wise development of the natural resources of the American Republics is an objective of vital interest to these nations and a matter of appropriate concern to the membership of the Eighth American Scientific Congress;

Events of recent months have again accentuated the desirability of developing, as rapidly as possible, the American production of certain basic raw materials, such as rubber, to alleviate the dependency of the American nations on foreign countries for production of these materials;



Substantial areas in tropical regions of the Americas have large potentialities for the successful production of rubber; and

The American production of marketable quantities of good quality rubber would be mutually advantageous to the American nations, both as producers and consumers of the raw material,

#### The Eighth American Scientific Congress

##### RESOLVES:

To recommend to the Pan American Union that it study the possibility of undertaking the necessary measure to promote;

1. The establishment of practical demonstration areas for rubber production within sufficiently large areas in suitable regions of tropical America.

2. The active participation of the American governments and the leading private and commercial organizations interested in rubber production, in the establishment of such demonstration areas in American rubber production.

3. That a committee of five representatives of the American nations be appointed to act in all matters relating to the development of rubber production in the Americas in the following manner;

- (a) Encouraging in every feasible, appropriate manner the establishment of substantial, practical demonstrations of rubber production in tropical America;
- (b) Advising and consulting with governmental officials and commercial interests of the American nations in furtherance of such demonstrations; and
- (c) Reporting on the progress of the American nations in domestic rubber production at the next American Scientific Congress.

#### RED CROSS DRIVE

Death and destruction are raining from the skies in Europe. Men, women, and children, far removed from the battle front are suffering inhuman miseries. Loved ones are being blasted to bits; homes and businesses are being destroyed. Food supplies are wiped out; means of making a livelihood are destroyed. Thousands are on the move --- they know not where; buffeted about, pushed aside by the war hordes of Europe. The

innocent and helpless suffer along with the strong and powerful.

Today the Red Cross is conducting a drive to raise \$10,000,000 to be used in alleviating some of the terrific suffering abroad. For the sake of humanity -- GIVE and GIVE again. Make your contribution to your local Red Cross Chapter.

Remember and be thankful: The Red Cross is coming to us for help, instead of us having to ask the Red Cross for aid. Fortunate, indeed, are we in America.

#### SCS AND EXTENSION SERVICE RELATIONSHIP

The States relations division, in cooperation with the Federal and State Extension Services, is holding a series of regional meetings to discuss with representatives of both agencies the policy on relationships between the SCS and the Extension Service.

The SCS is mainly interested in bringing out desirable physical adjustments in land use with a view to bettering the general welfare, conserving natural resources, establishing a balanced agriculture, and reducing the hazards of flood and siltation.

The Extension Service can assist by getting these ideas across to the farm people through an organized educational program with farm groups.

A memorandum of understanding between SCS and the Extension Service provides for: (1) employment cooperatively of extension soil conservationists; (2) an educational program; (3) formation and development of soil conservation associations or committees; (4) encouragement of organization of districts; and (5) furthering cooperation between State agencies in planning and carrying out soil and water conservation plans.

At the meetings special emphasis is also given to the contribution of the State Soil Conservation Advisory Committee in a broad soil and water conservation program for each State, stressing the work in districts. Usually this is a 3-man committee, the State Extension Director, State Director of Agricultural Experiment Station, and SCS State Coordinator, as appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the inter-bureau coordinating committee report approved by the Secretary June 6, 1935. Copies of the report are available in the Washington and regional offices.

In the cooperative relationship activities of the two agencies, the extension soil conservationist performs a very important function. It is his responsibility to take the leadership in the soil conservation educational work within the State and to organize forces of various



agricultural representatives who may contribute to an effective educational program for farm people. The local county agent becomes the leader in organizing this work within the county. Local SCS representatives should stand ready to assist with soil conservation educational work in accordance with district, county, and community plans and arrangements.

#### CHIEF HONORED

Dr. Bennett was an honored guest at the Cuban Embassy on the evening of May 15 at which time he was formally made a member of the Geographic Society of Cuba. The honor was conferred in recognition of numerous efforts made by Dr. Bennett to encourage more efficient and economical use of Cuban soil resources.

Dr. Bennett is a ranking authority on the soils and agriculture of Cuba. Prior to taking over the job as Chief of the Soil Conservation Service, he spent many months in Cuba mapping and classifying the soils of the country and is co-author of the book "The Soils of Cuba," published in 1928.

#### CHIEF TO TALK AT COON VALLEY

Dr. Bennett is scheduled to speak at the Coon Valley field day on June 9. He will tell the development of erosion control work from the earliest days to the district phase, using Coon Valley, Wisconsin, as an example.

#### E. J. UTZ DIRECTS DEPARTMENTAL FLOOD CONTROL ACTIVITIES

E. J. Utz, head of land utilization division, has been detailed to the land use coordinator's office for a year to direct all flood control activities of the Department. A. L. Patrick, assistant chief, in charge of surveys and project plans, will handle SCS land utilization work in Mr. Utz's absence.

#### CONSOLIDATION OF LAND ACQUISITION DIVISION REGIONAL OFFICES

Regional offices of the land acquisition division are being realigned. Consolidations, to take effect July 1, are:

<u>Regions</u>	<u>Headquarters</u>
3 and 5	Milwaukee, Wis.
4 and 6	Amarillo, Tex.
7 and 9	Lincoln, Nebr.
8 and 10	Albuquerque, N. M.



Region 1 will be handled from the Washington, D. C., office with James M. Gray in charge. Region 2 is not affected. Headquarters continue at Atlanta, Georgia.

#### PRINTERS' INK

"With accelerated erosion unchecked, the land lies wounded, a mortal engine 'out of joint.' Then all the people feel the difference they have not had the eyes to see."

The quotation is from Russell Lord's article on "The Face of Earth" in the May issue of Country Life. Articles by Mr. Lord, who was formerly with the Soil Conservation Service, will appear as a regular feature of Country Life.

#### HEALTH AND SAFETY EDUCATION

The Safety Training Committee of the Federal Interdepartmental Safety Council invited representatives of Government house organs to attend a meeting on May 22 to discuss the feasibility of including in magazines and newspapers of Government bureaus items on public health and safety of general interest to Government employees.

The first of this series of articles will, perhaps, help you recognize poison ivy when you encounter it.

#### CAREFREE FUN OR IVY POISONING?

If you've ever been unfortunate enough to have had an attack of ivy poisoning you know all about its discomfort. But there is no need to miss the fun of summer because of poison ivy. You can do something about it.

First, learn to recognize the plant and stay away from it when you see it. It's a climbing vine, fond of tree stumps and fences, but the little single plant that hasn't yet reached the climbing stage is just as poisonous as the mature vine. The poison ivy has three shiny, green leaves and milky white berries, but if you can't recognize the plant when you see it, better have someone point it out to you.

Another couple of plants you'll want to give a wide berth to are the poison oak, a vine or shrub, and the poison sumac, a shrub or tree. First cousins of the ivy, they have some common characteristics and bring on a similar sort of rash. SCS safety and health bulletin No. 5 gives more information on all these nuisances. Your local safety man can provide a copy.

Next issue we'll tell you what to do in case you've been unfortunate enough to come in too close contact with the poison ivy, oak, or sumac.

### OBSERVATIONS

February issue of The Agricultural Education Magazine carries an article under the title "A New Approach to Training Leaders in Farm Planning" by O. C. Aderhold of the College of Education, University of Georgia. All personnel, particularly those interested in personnel training, will want to read this article. It is full of timely information and ideas.

### CONSERVATION IN GREECE

Our Soil Conservation magazine certainly gets around, judging by comments that come from remote corners of the earth at one time or another.

Dr. Constantine I. Nevros of Piraeus, Greece, recently sent Dr. Bennett an article on "Soil Erosion in Greece" for possible publication in the magazine. It was written in reply to Lois Olson's article on "Poor Man's Cow" in the October 1938 issue and tells what the Government of Greece has done to counteract erosion, in which the goat has played so spectacular a part.

### BY THE WAY --

Did you know that when Admiral Byrd took off for the Antarctic last November he took with him some equipment specially designed for him by our climatic and physiographic research staff at New Philadelphia, Ohio? The equipment is an adaptation of the instruments used on the project. It will measure wind velocity at four heights.

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Some of you may be interested in the article on "Farms, Business and Extension Unite to Advance North Dakota Conservation Work" in the May Extension Service Review. It tells about the "traveling farm institutes" in North Dakota. Conservation is one of their theme songs.

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And speaking of the Extension Service Review, those of you who have to write perforce, as well as the literary-minded, will want to read "Let's Write a Little" which appeared way back in the December issue. Some pretty good rules there!

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James M. Case, area forester at Little Rock, Arkansas tells of a pretty successful experiment in woodland management in Region 4's Soil Conservation News for March-April-May. His article is called "Woodlands --- a Cash Crop for the Farm."

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June 15, 1940

YOUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT SAYS --

In this issue of the NEWS we are turning over the Washington Correspondent spot to an important contribution by Conservator Harry E. Reddick, which appeared in the Region 10 Notebook.

## WHEN WE TALK

What would you think of an engineer who tried to build a dam by simply dumping a truck load of unmixed gravel, sand, and cement into a gully and "hoping" that it would work? How about a speaker who dumps twenty minutes -- or maybe longer -- of unorganized and unplanned thought on a helpless audience and hopes that what he has said will accomplish what he intended?

There is an art in talking effectively -- whether it is to one person in a casual field contact, to a number of persons in a conference, or to an audience. When a speaker closes with "And now are there any questions?" and it is followed by a loud silence -- there's something wrong and it's probably not with the audience. Insurance companies demand that their representatives spend several minutes in preparation for every one spent in talking to a prospective client. The broadcasts you hear over the air often represent a thousand minutes of preparation for every one of actual broadcast time.

A Washington visitor recently described two talks he had heard. One of them was wholly "platform platitudes", and the only thing the audience realized at the end of twenty minutes was that the seats were mighty hard. In the other one a technician squatted down on his heels in a pasture and, using one range plant as an example, told a story about it, how it happened to be there, how it affected the plants around it, and how they affected it, and how it could be "managed." The other technicians (to whom it was an old story) listened as attentively as did the visitors because what he had to say was interesting as well as informative.

Benton, Miss Mildred

When you talk - have a reason for doing so, and if you have no reason other than a desire to say "something" then it is better to keep still. "Slant" what you have to say in order that it will be more effective. Determine what the dominant interest of your audience is and let that knowledge guide you in your development of the subject.

Remember that while "technical language" among people of the same training or background provides both short-cuts in conveying thoughts and a means of expressing more accurately and more fully your thoughts, the excessive use of it before non-technical people effectively defeats your purpose in talking. Do not be so "technical" that your audience will have difficulty in understanding. Don't talk to "impress" with your superior knowledge and don't "talk down" to people. Be positive in your approach. It is ordinarily better to delete or avoid subject matter that would call for denials or lengthy qualifying explanations. Remember that "good listening" is often more eloquent than talking. "Hang on" to the subject - the other fellow may not consider his time well spent in listening to you reminisce.

"Mixed" or general groups call for "popular appeal." Interesting popular speakers use "picture words." If we say that a man walked into a room, our listeners know only that he entered. If we say that he lumbered, crept, slunk, dashed or even staggered, we have helped the listener form a mental picture, and people generally like pictures. There are certain "common denominators" that everyone is interested in regardless of sex or training. We all want good health and happiness. We all like humor and we all like to be praised.

Be careful about changing the thought, or a series of thoughts too abruptly - it's like suddenly changing the direction of a speeding car. A planted "hint" in the preceding sentence is like an arm signal before a turn and causes what you have to say to flow and to have continuity.

Remember that when you ask for the attention of one person or a group you are automatically obligating yourself to contribute something of greater value than they would otherwise receive. If we are to contribute more we must think more before we contribute. Soil conservation can be made interesting and informative to any person or group by careful planning beforehand. Half of success in talking is what you say - the other half is in how you say it.

Harry E. Reddick.



Service News is presenting in this issue the semi-annual report to the Soil Conservation Service of the Tri-River Soil Conservation District, Pocahontas, Arkansas. The broad view and excellent grasp which supervisors of the district show in this report make it well worth reading by all SCS personnel.

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRI-RIVER  
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT, POCAHONTAS,  
ARK., JANUARY 1, 1940.

The supervisors of the Tri-River district set as their goal for the last half of 1939 the full and coordinated use of all agencies interested in the welfare of farm people.

A memorandum of understanding with the Extension Service has given us splendid cooperation in educating our farmers in the advantages of community action over individual effort in carrying out an erosion control program. Additional memoranda of understanding with the Soil Conservation Service afford us trained technicians for farm planning, while the Pocahontas CCC camp renders valuable service in assisting our cooperators with the execution of farm plans.

But feeling that the district affords an opportunity for more organizations than these, we called a meeting on July 7, 1939, to explain the idea of cooperation to all agricultural agencies. The purpose of this meeting was set forth in the following manner: "To bring about closer coordination of all agencies interested in agriculture and the welfare of farm families." That the meeting was a success is shown by the increased interest manifested since that time at the regular monthly meetings which grew out of this one called by the chairman of our supervisors. We had 36 agricultural workers present other than ourselves with representatives from the Farm Security Administration, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Vocational Agriculture Department, State Extension Service, Civilian Conservation Corps, Rural Resettlement Administration, Soil Conservation Service, Feed and Seed Loan, and the county officials of Lawrence and Randolph Counties.

Through regular monthly meetings of this kind held in the offices of the various organizations we have been able to secure much valuable help from agencies other than those regularly cooperating with the district.

Applications on all land connected with the Farm Security Administration with help from the county supervisors in physical planning and work execution is one of the outstanding accomplishments of these group conferences.



Assistance from the Smith-Hughes instructors with educational meetings and in securing applications has been of valuable assistance to the Supervisors.

Another group which has continued to render noteworthy service is the township committeemen by calling meetings in their communities for the securing of applications and getting group action on work execution. One such meeting held by township committeeman Henry Brown of Hamil resulted in every landowner present, 16 in number, making application on more than 5,000 acres at one time. The vice-chairman of the board of supervisors assisted Mr. Brown by explaining the district program and plan of work, but Mr. Brown "made the call" and gathered in the applications of his neighbors. Every one of these 16 farms is now under district agreement, and another community has been added to our ever-increasing number of conservation-minded landowners.

Another meeting of this type called by Lee Davis, township committeeman of Ravenden Springs, produced 24 applications totaling more than 3,000 acres.

Believing that our township, or community, committeemen are important in a district where local leadership is so valuable, we arranged an all-day meeting for them with a program designed to teach the broader concepts of the purpose and aims of our district. The supervisors provided a banquet for the 20 committeemen attending, and we feel that it was time and money well spent for these men have been chosen for their influence and knowledge of good farming practices in the communities which they represent.

Although we have reason to believe that in general the situation here is well in hand, the problem of impoverished owners of small farms in the hill sections of our district continues to baffle us. These farms are too small in most cases for the owners to make a satisfactory living if the soil was fertile instead of eroded to an alarming degree due to intensive and cramped farming practices. Many of these farms furnished homes to the first settlers in this part of Arkansas, and inheritance by succeeding generations has divided them into tracts from 20 to 50 acres in size.

We have placed several of these farms under cooperative agreements in an area set out in our original program and plan of work as one with critical erosion problems. We find that the owners of these small farms are not financially able to carry out the basic essentials of an erosion control program. With practically no soil left suitable for growing row crops and their farming units too small for livestock farming, these people are truly at the cross-roads of rural existence.

After giving much study to this area and the people who eke out a miserable existence from the soil which is no longer capable of returning them a living, supplemented in some cases by part-time work on WPA projects, we, the board of supervisors, recommend that this area in the northern part of our district constituting approximately 300 small farms be made into a Land Utilization Project, the size of farming units increased, the less critical areas set to permanent grasses, while the steeper slopes be reforested with adapted trees.

One outstanding supervisors' meeting was the one held November 29, 1939 with Congressman Wilbur D. Mills and Glenn E. Riddell, State Coordinator of the Soil Conservation Service, present. Congressman Mills outlined for us the ideas which our national leaders had in mind when they supported legislation for the aid of Soil Conservation districts, while Mr. Riddell gave us the ideas of the state leaders in agriculture and how they are working together for the good of all districts and all agricultural enterprises.

The social and economic factors in the business of farming have been set up by our Board as one of the major studies to be made during the coming year. We realize that to be successful as a district designed and operated for the broad purpose of bettering human welfare, we must consider not only the problem of soil losses but the economic changes that are being brought about on individual farming units and in communities where our plans for erosion control effect the time-honored economic system.

Realizing that we must be able to offer guidance to our cooperators that will enable them to best utilize the resources they have toward obtaining a satisfactory livelihood for their families, we have obtained and studied available material on farm management and economics. Our Secretary has prepared a brief resume of this information which is to be mimeographed for use in instructing our township committeemen at their next regular meeting.

The fact that we now have completed agreements on 390 farms, which furnish homes for 600 families, and have been adding 30 new cooperators each month for the past eight months, that applications continue to come in a steady flow after almost two years of operations, coupled with community planning for group work execution affords us many opportunities to aid our people.

The civic organizations have committees assigned to assist the supervisors, while our banks place district cooperators on the preferred list for agricultural loans. Working on the old axiom "in union there is strength" we have enlisted the active support of every



agency, corporation, and individual in our territory toward the good of a permanent agriculture founded on soil that will not wash away beneath our feet.

F. W. Cox, Chairman  
 J. D. Wells, Vice-Chairman  
 F. F. Sloan, Secretary  
 J. B. Weaver, Supervisor  
 R. S. Rainwater, Supervisor

#### PATENT FOR IMPROVED PLANT CONTAINER

Oswald K. Hoglund and Fred W. Herbert, of the nursery division at Berkeley, Calif., have worked out an improved method for making plant containers for seedlings out of paper or similar flexible material.

A patent has been granted, dedicated to the free use of the public. Detailed information can be obtained from the inventors.

#### THE CHIEF'S PLANS

H. H. Bennett expects to address the New Hampshire Federation of Garden Clubs at Wentworth-By-The-Sea, Portsmouth, N. H., on June 18. On the 24th he plans to address the Great Plains Conference at Boulder, Colo.

#### COOPERATION IN PUERTO RICO

Cooperation -- 100 per cent -- by all Federal and insular agencies interested in the land and its people is responsible for the smooth working of soil conservation plans in Puerto Rico, said G. L. Crawford on a recent trip to Washington. Mr. Crawford is in charge of SCS work on the island.

#### CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FUND

There is quoted below for your information, Personnel Circular No. 88, dated April 10, 1940, in regard to the procedure for making additional voluntary contributions to the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund:

"All employees within the purview of the Civil Service Retirement Act may at any time make additional voluntary contributions to the retirement fund, not to exceed 10 percent of the aggregate annual basic salary received since August 1, 1920.



"Employees who are indebted to the Civil Service Retirement Fund--because of failure to redeposit deductions previously refunded or because, in cases of administrative error, the proper deductions were not currently taken--must liquidate that indebtedness before becoming eligible to make additional deposits. In order to clear up this indebtedness, the employee must execute and submit Form 3012, 'Application for Service Credit' through regular channels to the Civil Service Commission. The Commission will then compute the exact amount owed and notify the employee. Bureaus may obtain Form 3012 from the Office of Personnel.

"Employees desiring to make voluntary deposits must first execute and file Form 3471, 'Election to Make Voluntary Contributions' with the Civil Service Commission. Each bureau will be furnished Form 3471 by the Central Supply Section upon request.

"Upon receipt of Form 3471 the Commission will furnish to each employee who is eligible to make such deposits an account book, Form 3472, containing 25 deposit slips and properly identified by a membership number. No deposit should be made prior to the approval of Form 3471 by the Retirement Division of the Commission. The possession by an employee of an account book is prima facie evidence of such approval. Additional account books may be obtained from the Commission upon request.

"In view of the complications involved, voluntary contributions will not be made by payroll deductions. Each deposit shall be made in the amount of \$25.00 or a multiple thereof, by money order, draft or check made payable to the United States Civil Service Commission. A deposit slip must be filled out by the employee and sent direct to the Commission, Washington, D. C., with each deposit. That office will issue a receipt, Form 3475, for each deposit received.

"The Retirement Division of the Commission will maintain the 'Voluntary Contributions Account, Form 3474', of each employee electing to make additional deposits to the retirement fund. The amount of deposit is optional with the employee subject to the restrictions mentioned above. The fact that an employee has made one or more deposits does not obligate him to continue making such deposits. The money deposited, with interest as prescribed by law, shall be available to purchase additional annuity at the date of retirement, in pursuance of rules and regulations to be prescribed by the Commission with the approval of the Board of Actuaries.

"Voluntary deposits will be refunded only in case of (a) transfer to a position in which the employee does not retain his status under the Retirement Act, (b) absolute separation from the service prior to becoming eligible for retirement annuity, and (c) death.

"In order to avoid confusion in the employee's retirement account, the voluntary contributions shall not under any circumstances be recorded on the "Retirement Record Card," Form 2806.

"Sources of above provisions

- (1) Section 4 of the Retirement Act of August 4, 1939, effective January 1, 1940.
- (2) Civil Service Retirement Circular No. 90, dated January 4, 1940."

PAN AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

A Pan-American organization, known as the American Society of Agricultural Sciences, was organized last week. E. G. Holt, chief of the division of biology, was elected president. There will be 21 vice-presidents, one from each American Republic.

The objectives of the Society are:

- (1) To recognize agriculture as a basic industry of the Americas, and as an effective instrument in maintaining close and harmonious ties between the American Republics.
- (2) To advance scientific agriculture in the American Republics through individual and collective effort, through the development of active governmental support, and in other ways.
- (3) To provide a central organization for the coordination of the aims and efforts of the agricultural sciences in the American Republics.
- (4) To hold meetings; to issue publications; and otherwise to disseminate information related to agriculture, and to provide for an exchange of research findings, ideas, and experiences among its members.
- (5) To promote solidarity and friendship among American workers in agricultural sciences and persons interested in the advancement of agricultural sciences in the American Republics.



OPEN FORUM

Editor, Service News: In the "Open Forum" column of the May 15, 1940 issue, there appears an indictment against the "amount of red tape and delay necessary under existing regulations before vendors can secure payment for services rendered or materials delivered", and a recommendation that some remedial action be started by Budget and Finance Sections of the Service.

It is assumed that the writer was aware that the Comptroller General of the United States prescribes the regulations with regard to the submission of accounts against the United States in accordance with the Budget and Accounting Act, (Title 31, Sec. 49, U. S. Code of Laws). Admitting that the Budget and Finance Divisions of the Soil Conservation Service and other establishments of the Government must strictly adhere to the laws enacted by Congress and the regulations of the Comptroller General, suggestions as to changes in such laws and regulations may be and are from time to time submitted through appropriate channels.

Until two years ago, vendors were required in most instances to certify that their bills were correct and just, and payment therefor had not been received, and to furnish a certification relative to the "Buy American Act" of March 3, 1933. On April 2, 1938, additional certificates were prescribed by the Comptroller General to cover numerous and varied types of supplies and services. Different statutory and contract requirements imposed on certain classes of expenditures necessitated this action, the former certificates being inadequate.

The Comptroller General has held that there is no authority in administrative offices nor in the accounting offices to increase the amounts of the vouchers representing claims against the Government, which have been certified as correct by the claimant, (9 Comp. Gen. 251). It is, therefore, necessary to return invoices to vendors for the initialling of alterations and corrections, such initials being evidence that the invoices were altered or corrected by the claimants rather than officers of the Government.

The writer mentioned that small merchants are required to submit their invoices in many copies. In certain cases, the contention of the writer may be correct, but regardless of the fact that vendors may be requested to furnish necessary copies of invoices, the general practice is to accept the number of copies submitted by the vendors and any additional copies, required for administrative use, are prepared by the offices billed. Signed: G. G. Smith, Chief, Budget and Finance Division.

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Editor, Service News: Reference is made to H. L. R's comment in the Open Forum of the May 15, 1940 issue of SERVICE NEWS.



H. L. R. certainly "hit the nail on the head" in his statement concerning purchases from small town merchants. We have encountered the same trouble in making purchases from small town merchants in this work area.

I hope that something can be done to make our relations with small town merchants more amicable so that in making purchases we will not have to "beg" merchants to do business with us.

Signed: Leon F. Silberger, Camp Superintendent.

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#### RESOLUTIONS OF AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS APPROVED

With only a few minor changes, the agricultural resolutions adopted by the Eighth American Scientific Congress, quoted in the last issue of SERVICE NEWS, have been approved by the Governing Board of the Pan American Union.

#### REGIONAL PLANNING COURSE AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

A course in Regional Planning is being offered for the first time this summer in the 1940 Harvard University Summer School.

#### FARM PLANNING COURSE AT TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

A special experimental course for teachers of vocational agriculture will be given by the College of Agriculture of Tennessee July 1-18. The course is a cooperative approach to agricultural planning in its larger aspects.

#### POISON IVY REMEDY

Here is a simple personal precaution that will help you avoid ivy poisoning at home and in vacation spots. Whenever you return to the house or camp from an out-of-doors jaunt, scrub the exposed parts of the body with laundry soap or tincture of green soap. The usual toilet soap is too mild. But an inexpensive grade of green soap is as effective as anything else.

Do not touch your face or other parts of the body until you have scrubbed your hands, arms, and legs. Pay particular attention to the fingers and fingernails. Might be a good idea to keep a special scrub brush handy for that purpose. Oh, and be sure that you rinse thoroughly.

If you suspect that you have been exposed to poison ivy, you might follow the scrub-up with a rinsing in a solution of baking soda, borax, boric acid, or Epsom salts.

Before going into a place where you will probably meet poison ivy, it's not a bad idea to cover exposed parts of the body with cottonseed oil, olive oil, or vaseline. This isn't a remedy; it's merely a protection.

If you know you have had contact with poison ivy, follow your scrub-up by painting the exposed area with a 4 percent solution of ferric chloride (half strength) or a 5 percent solution of ferrous sulfate. Painting with either solution is helpful even after inflammation appears.

Or you can have injections of poison ivy extract. It's a good idea to let the doctor decide how much, though. Of course, if you have a bad case of poisoning you will want to consult your physician in any case.

#### BY THE WAY --

Those of you who have wondered about the "whys and wherefores" of the SCS snow surveys will find the answers in USDA Misc. Publ. No. 380, James C. Marr's dissertation on "Snow Surveying." Irrigation Engineer Marr has done a good job of supplying the "who, what, why, where, when and how" on snow surveys.

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Another recent bulletin is USDA Circ. 558, "Processing Seed of Grasses and Other Plants to Remove Awns and Appendages." It's by Schwendiman, Sackman, and Hafenrichter of the nursery division.

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Some 97,000 men will be enrolled in the CCC from July 1 to 20 to bring the Corps to a 300,000-man strength

Senator Byrnes' proposal to train CCC enrollees in non-combatant skills has passed the Senate but not the House. The training would be optional for all present enrollees but compulsory for newcomers.

The only variation from present training "on the job" would be intensification of such training as road and bridge building, automotive operation and repair, photography, and the like. These skills would all be useful in peacetime.

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The boys down in Region 2 have developed a contraption called the "Glades Buggy" with which to traverse the wetter spots in the Everglades. The buggy is a metamorphosed ton-and-a-half truck on which the ratio of gears has been changed. It's got flanges on its wheels and can do five miles an hour in high.

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Confucius didn't have a monopoly on bright ideas among Orientals. Back in 2800 B. C. Shonnung, Chinese emperor and inventor of agricultural implements, said: "The well-being of a people is like a tree; agriculture is its root, manufacture and commerce are its branches and life; if the root is injured, the leaves fall, the branches break away and the tree dies."

#### OBSERVATIONS OF INTEREST

"Frequently certain observations are brought to our attention, but because the information is not a part of some organized report we are at a loss as to how such information can best be used," says Regional Conservator Reddick. So right at that point Service News comes to the rescue as a medium for throwing the light on some of the "practical experience" observations in Region 10. Such contributions from other regions will be welcomed.

State Coordinator Cozzens was recently asked to visit a small isolated agricultural area in one corner of the Mohave Desert in connection with a proposed district. Although this place is across a high mountain range and many miles from the closest demonstration project, Mr. Cozzens found not only an interest in forming a district -- but one of the ranchers had purchased a second-hand basin lister and was using it extensively, if not too wisely, on his hillside farm. It was also noted that strip cropping was being practiced to a considerable extent but -- as in the case of the basin lister -- there was considerable variance from the recommended practices of this Service.

In Larkin Valley, Mr. Henry Flath believes that basin listing has caused a spring to flow the year around which has previously gone dry each summer. Mr. Flath checked his conclusions in this respect by not basin listing one year and observed that the spring went dry during the summer as it had in previous years before he started basin listing.